

*As  
concluded*

a blade attached to the carrier, a portion of the blade extending below the lower surface of the plate within the channel when the plate is disposed over the cutting region, wherein the slot has a nonuniform width such that the carrier can be removed from the slot when the carrier is adjacent a maximum width of the slot.

Additionally, please cancel claims 18 and 25.

### REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were originally filed in the present application, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 1-9, 11-17 and 19-24 as amended. Claims 18 and 25 have been cancelled from the application.

The Examiner objected to the claims on the grounds that there were inadvertently two different claims numbered as claim 18. The Examiner renumbered the second occurrence of claim 18 as "claim 19" and renumbered claims 19-24 as 20-25. Because claim 25 has been cancelled, the Examiner's original objection to claim 25 is rendered moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for various reasons. In claim 1, the Examiner indicated that the term "corresponding" was unclear when considered with the carrier. In response with this rejection and in order to clarify the nature of the invention, Applicant has amended claim 1 to describe the carrier as sized to be removed from the slot when positioned adjacent the first width of the slot and impeded from being removed when positioned adjacent the second width of the slot. As is shown in FIGS. 3-5 and 15 and described on page 7 of the specification (paragraphs 0040 and 0041), the slot 60 includes a first width 302 which is substantially wider than the second width 304. When the carrier 18 is positioned adjacent the first width 302, the carrier is capable of being removed from the slot 60. When the carrier is adjacent the second width 304, the carrier

18 cannot be removed. As this structure is clearly discussed in the specification and shown in the drawings, Applicant submits that the Examiner's rejection is overcome by these amendments.

The Examiner rejected claim 4 due to some confusion as to the location of the first and second widths of the slot. In response to this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 4 to describe the slot having a first width at both the first and second ends of the plate, and wherein the slot has the second width between the first and second ends. This feature can be seen clearly in FIG. 15 of the drawings. Applicant submits that this rejection is overcome by this amendment to claim 4.

In addition to an antecedent basis issue in claim 5 and a typographical error in claim 17, both of which have been corrected, the Examiner rejected claim 13 due to the use of the term "one of the portions" and the use of the word "ached." In response to this rejection, Applicant has amended the claim by correcting "ached" to be "attached" and replacing the term "one of the portions" with "one of the first portion and the second portion of the blade holder," referencing the blade holder of claim 12. Applicant submits that this amendment eliminates any ambiguity in claim 13.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-15, 17-21 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,942, issued to Cornell et al., asserting that all of the features of these claims are disclosed in the Cornell et al. reference. The Examiner also rejected claims 16 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Cornell et al. reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,967,628, issued to Chen.

Notwithstanding the Examiner's assertions, Applicant submits that each of the claims as amended are patentable over the prior art. Claims 1-9 and 11-16 all include the feature

of the slot having a first width at a first portion thereof and a second width at a second portion thereof, the first width being larger than the second width, wherein the carrier is sized to be removed from the slot when positioned adjacent the first width of the slot and impeded from being removed adjacent the second width of the slot. Similarly, claims 17 and 19-23 describe a slot with differing minimum and maximum widths, wherein the foot of the carrier is capable of being removed from the slot when the carrier is positioned adjacent the maximum width of the slot, and wherein the foot is substantially incapable of being removed from the slot when the carrier is positioned adjacent the minimum width of the slot. Claim 24 describes a slot having a nonuniform width such that the carrier can be removed from the slot when the carrier is adjacent a maximum width of the slot. The Cornell et al. reference does not teach, disclose or even suggest this feature.

The above features are also not taught, disclosed or even suggested by any of the prior art cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. Both the Cornell et al. reference and the Chen reference fail to disclose or even suggest the use of a slot with a nonuniform width such that the user can selectively remove the carrier from the slot depending upon the carrier's relative position. This structure provides a number of substantial benefits to the user, not the least of which includes providing the user with the ability to easily remove and/or replace the carrier for purposes such as replacing the cutting blade. The prior art references cited by the Examiner are completely silent as to this issue. For these reasons, Applicant submits that each of the claims as amended are patentable over the cited prior art.

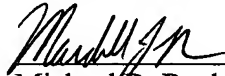
Applicant therefore submits that all outstanding rejections to the pending claims have been overcome by the foregoing amendments and remarks, in that each of pending claims

1-20 are all in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and favorable action are hereby respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that no fee is due with this Amendment and Reply. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 06-1450, of Foley & Lardner. A duplicate copy of this response is attached.

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Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX – AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A paper trimmer, comprising:  
a base including a support surface and a cutting region having a channel;  
a plate pivotally attached to the base and including an upper surface, a lower surface, a first end, a second end, and a slot extending through the plate along a longitudinal axis of the plate intermediate the first and second ends, the slot having a first width at a first portion thereof and a second width at a second portion thereof, the first width being larger than the second width;  
a carrier being slidably received in the slot and sized to be removed from the slot when [corresponding to] positioned adjacent the first width of the slot and impeded from being removed when [corresponding to] positioned adjacent the second width of the slot; and  
a blade attached to the carrier, wherein a portion of the blade extends below the lower surface of the plate within the channel when the plate is disposed over the cutting region.

4. (Amended) The paper trimmer of claim 2, wherein the slot includes the first width at the first and second ends of the plate, and wherein the slot has the second width [at] between the first end and the second end of the plate.

5. (Amended) The paper trimmer of claim 1, wherein the carrier includes first and second cylindrical portions on opposite sides of the slot, and wherein the plate includes an arcuate [portions] portion on each side of the slot corresponding to the cylindrical portions of the carrier such that the carrier travels along the plate via the interaction of the cylindrical portions with the arcuate [surfaces] portions.

13. (Amended) The paper trimmer of claim 12, wherein the locating means includes a stud attached to one of the [portions] first portion and the second portion of the blade holder, the blade includes a cutting edge and a foot having an aperture sized to receive the stud.

17. (Amended) A material trimmer comprising:  
a base having a support surface and a cutting region having a channel;

a plate movably attached to the base and including:  
    oppositely facing upper and lower surfaces,  
    an elongated slot therethrough,  
    an elevated portion proximate each side of the slot, the elevated portion  
leading to an arcuate surface, and  
    a distal second end;

a carrier including a top flange having a pair of oppositely extending sides, a  
foot extending from the top flange, the foot being slidably received within the slot, and a  
portion of the pair of oppositely extending sides being arcuate in shape and slidably received  
within the arcuate surface of the elevated portion; and

a blade [at ached] attached to the carrier, a portion of the blade extending below  
the lower surface of the plate within the channel when the plate is disposed over the cutting  
region,

wherein the slot has differing minimum and maximum widths, and wherein the  
foot is capable of being removed from the slot when the carrier is positioned adjacent the  
maximum width of the slot, and wherein the foot is substantially incapable of being removed  
from the slot when the carrier is positioned adjacent the minimum width of the slot.

19. (Amended) The material trimmer of claim [18] 17, wherein the slot has the  
minimum width at the substantially opposite ends of the plate, and wherein the slot has the  
maximum width between the substantially opposite ends of the plate.

24. (Amended) A material cutter, comprising:  
a base having a support surface and a cutting region having a channel;  
a plate movably attached to the base and including:  
    oppositely facing upper and lower surfaces,  
    an elongated slot therethrough,  
    an angled portion proximate each side of the slot, the angled portion  
leading to an arcuate surface, and  
    a distal second end;

a carrier including a top flange having a pair of oppositely extending sides, a foot extending from the top flange, the foot being slidably received within the slot, and a portion of the pair of oppositely extending sides being substantially cylindrical in shape and slidably received within the arcuate surface of the elevated portion; and

a blade attached to the carrier, a portion of the blade extending below the lower surface of the plate within the channel when the plate is disposed over the cutting region[.],

wherein the slot has a nonuniform width such that the carrier can be removed from the slot when the carrier is adjacent a maximum width of the slot.